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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AREA CODES 402 AND 308 EXTENDED AGAIN

LINCOLN – The forecasted exhaust dates for Nebraska's two telephone area codes has again been extended from their previous dates the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) was informed at its October 29 meeting.

The Federal Communications Commission has notified the Commission that the area codes 402 and 308 forecasted exhaust dates have been extended. Changes are the result of an analysis of number usage within the respective area codes.

It has been nearly ten years since the Commission was first informed that area code 402 was in danger of exhaust. In 1999 the NPSC was informed that area code 402 was in danger of exhausting in the fourth quarter of 2000. Since that time several pro-active measures have been implemented by the Commission to extend the life of area code 402. It is now forecast to exhaust during the third quarter of 2010 compared to the second quarter in the previous report. That represents an extension of the 402 area code forecast exhaust date of over three years since 402 mandatory pooling began in February of 2006.

Commission Chair Anne Boyle, a member of the Federal Communications Commission's North American Numbering Council, said, "The continued extension of the forecast exhaust dates can be directly traced to actions taken by the Commission since 1999 and to the continued cooperation of the telecommunications industry in working with the Commission to address this issue."

The Telecommunications Department said that 37 per cent of the numbers assigned in the 402 area code are pooled numbers which are now allocated in blocks of 1,000 rather than blocks of 10,000 as previously assigned. Another 36 per cent are the result of number portability, which permits consumers to retain a telephone number when switching carriers within a rate center. Number pooling and portability have been key components of the Nebraska Commission's efforts to extend the life of the 402 area code.

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